

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 159600
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 /062 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:ADR

APPROVED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL

-----027698 231107Z /13

R 222203Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 159600

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PRAIA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS STATE 159600

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, JUNE 22, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL
VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT MR. MCHENRY'S TRIP TO
ANGOLA -- WHAT HE'S DOING THERE?

A: WE HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF CONTACTS WITH THE ANGOLANS IN
RECENT MONTHS, AND THE MCHENRY TRIP GREW NATURALLY OUT OF
THOSE CONTACTS. I WOULD JUST GIVE YOU THIS BACKGROUND
FIRST:

THE MOST NOTABLE OF THESE CONTACTS WAS A MEETING BETWEEN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 159600

SECRETARY VANCE AND ANGOLAN FOREIGN MINISTER JORGE, IN
NEW YORK, APRIL 30; AND THE MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR
ANDREW YOUNG AND THE ANGOLAN PRIME MINISTER IN NEW YORK
JUNE 1, DURING THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE UNGA
SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT.

ALL RIGHT, AS PART OF THIS PROCESS, AMBASSADOR MCHENRY
ACCOMPANIED BY LEWIS D. JUNIOR, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF
CENTRAL AFRICAN AFFAIRS, ARRIVED IN LUANDA LATE ON JUNE 21
FOR A TWO-DAY VISIT.

THE TRIP WAS ARRANGED BY MUTUAL CONSENT AGREEMENT, FOR
DISCUSSION OF OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS OF COMMON INTEREST.

I DON'T MEAN TO TRY TO CUT OFF QUESTIONING, WHICH I CAN'T
CUT OFF, BUT I REALLY DON'T HAVE MORE DETAILS ON WHAT THE
TALKS ARE GOING TO COVER.

FOR THOSE WHO MAY NOT REMEMBER, AMBASSADOR MCHENRY IS
DEPUTY U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL.

WE ARE, TO REPEAT, HOLDING DISCUSSIONS ON ISSUES OF

COMMON INTEREST.

AS THE SECRETARY SAID IN HIS SPEECH OF JUNE 20 ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD AFRICA, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO INCREASE OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT.

I THINK I'LL TAKE QUESTIONS.

Q: MCHENRY HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE NAMIBIA QUESTION SINCE THE OUTSET, SO IT'S FAIRLY OBVIOUS THAT THAT WOULD BE HIGH ON THE AGENDA.

JUNIOR, I BELIEVE, WAS ZAIRE DESK OFFICER AND WAS HEAD OF THE TASK FORCE ON SHABA, SO WE CAN ASSUME THAT THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 159600

SECOND ITEM ON THE AGENDA WILL BE THE QUESTION OF THE INVIOABILITY OF THE ZAIRE-ANGOLA BORDER. WILL YOU ASSENT TO THAT?

A: NO, I THINK AS I AM TOLD HERE FOR MY BACKGROUND INFORMATION, ASTUTE REPORTERS WILL BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THAT WE HAVE A NUMBER OF INTERESTS IN COMMON IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND I REALLY DON'T NEED TO ITEMIZE THEM.

Q: WELL JUST ONE FURTHER TRY, WHICH IS: ASSUMING THAT BOTH OF THESE MEN ARE GOING THERE TO ACCOMPLISH SUBSTANTIVE THINGS, THERE IS AN AGREED AGENDA, IS THERE NOT?

A: I AM CONFIDENT THAT THEY HAVE SOME IDEA OF WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO BE DISCUSSING.

PLEASE, WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE SOME SPECTACULAR "BREAK-THROUGH" (I HATE TO USE THE WORD.)

NOR WOULD I ANTICIPATE SOME SPECTACULAR DEVELOPMENT SUCH AS A COLLAPSE, A FAILURE, AN IMPASSE.

WHAT WE ARE DOING IS, MEETING WITH THE ANGOLANS AS WE HAVE DONE BEFORE ON SEVERAL OTHER OCCASIONS, TO TRY TO DISCUSS SOME OF THESE MATTERS WHICH (I REPEAT TO YOU, OZZIE, ARE NOT HARD TO FIGURE OUT THOUGH I AM NOT AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS.)

Q: DO YOU EXPECT THE SUBJECT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS TO BE DISCUSSED?

A: THE QUESTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, FRANKLY DOESN'T ARISE. WE HAVE NO PLANS FOR DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION. UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 159600

Q: THAT WASN'T WHAT I ASKED.

A: WE ARE SIMPLY GOING TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS ON ISSUES OF COMMON INTEREST.

INSOFAR AS DEALING WITH THE SUBJECTS, I REPEAT: I AM NOT GOING TO GO INTO THE SUBJECTS. I HAVE GIVEN YOU AS MUCH AS I CAN GIVE YOU ON ANY SUBJECT -- WHICH IS THAT WE HAVE NO PLANS FOR DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION.

Q: WELL WHEN THE SECRETARY SPOKE THIS WEEK OF THE BORDER BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA, IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED -- AND YOU KNOW -- I SUPPOSE MR. MCHENRY'S TRIP -- CONCERNED WITH INCURSIONS FROM ZAIRE INTO ANGOLA?

AND ANY POSSIBLE -- I COULD GO BEYOND THAT -- ARE WE WORRIED ABOUT THE GULF OIL COMPANY'S OPERATIONS OR HOW SECURE THEY WOULD BE IF THE CUBANS WERE TO LEAVE?

HE REFERRED TO -- I FORGOT THE PHRASE -- BUT OBVIOUSLY "SECURING THE BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES -- AND MOST OF US HAVE BEEN TRAINED BY THE ADMINISTRATION OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT INCURSIONS INTO ZAIRE -- BUT IS THERE A POTENTIAL DANGER FROM OUR FRIENDS IN ZAIRE, SERVING AS A SPRINGBOARD FOR INCURSIONS INTO ANGOLA, WHO WEREN'T OUR FRIENDS AND PROBABLY STILL AREN'T?

A: I WOULD SAY, GENERALLY, THAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN THE INTEGRITY OF BORDERS, INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BORDERS BETWEEN ALL COUNTRIES.

AND I AM NOT REALLY GOING TO AGAIN GET INTO THE SPECIFICS OF ANY DISCUSSIONS THAT WE ARE HAVING.

I HAVE NOTED IN THE PAST, OUR CONCERN WITH THAT PARTICULAR UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 159600

BORDER.

Q: GOING THE OTHER WAY, TOO?

A: AND HAVE ALSO NOTED THAT WE OBVIOUSLY WOULD TAKE SERIOUSLY ANY SUCH QUESTIONS -- AND HAVE DONE SO.

Q: HODDING, YOU ALSO NOTE PRACTICALLY AND INFERENTIALLY, THAT PROBLEMS LIKE THESE WOULD BE SETTLED BY THE PARTIES INVOLVED. THE QUESTION IS: WE ARE SENDING A MISSION TO ANGOLA THAT IS GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE PERMEABILITY OF THAT BORDER. ARE WE GOING TO DO THE OTHER HALF OF THE ACT AND SEND SOMEBODY TO KINSHASA OR START TALKS AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL ON THAT PROBLEM?

A: I, AGAIN, AM JUST GOING TO NOTE THAT WE HAVE HAD REGULAR DIPLOMATIC CONVERSATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE.

INSOFAR, AGAIN, AS THE SPECIFICS, I CAN'T DEAL WITH -- YOU ARE TELLING ME WHAT WE ARE TALKING TO THE ANGOLANS ABOUT; AND THEREFORE, I CAN'T DEAL WITH WHAT SPECIFICS WE MAY BE TALKING TO THE ZAIRIANS ABOUT -- EXCEPT WHAT WE'VE SAID, WHICH IS THAT WE HAVE COME FORWARD WITH SOME RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER WESTERN NATIONS FOR CERTAIN REFORMS IN ZAIRE.

Q: DO WE STILL WANT THE CUBAN TROOPS TO COME OUT FROM ANGOLA?

A: WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE PRESENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS THERE IS NOT A USEFUL FACTOR, AND WE CONTINUE TO BE OPPOSED TO FOREIGN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 159600

Q: AREN'T THEY USEFUL TO THE GULF OIL COMPANY?

A: I REALLY CAN'T ANALYZE THAT. YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK GULF.

Q: WELL, IT'S AN AMERICAN COMPANY AND BY SOME ACCOUNTS THE MOST -- PARTICULARLY "THE WASHINGTON POST" SUNDAY -- THE TROOPS SERVE A VERY IMPORTANT PURPOSE IN SECURING GULF'S OPERATIONS.

DOES THE UNITED STATES THINK THERE IS A SUBSTITUTE FOR CUBAN TROOPS TO PROTECT THE GULF OIL COMPANY?

A: WE THINK THERE IS A SUBSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN TROOPS EVERYWHERE, AND THAT IS LOCAL TROOPS.

Q: BACK ON ANGOLA, YOU SAID THERE WERE NO PLANS FOR DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION. COULD YOU SAY WHY THERE AREN'T ANY SUCH PLANS IN VIEW OF THIS ADMINISTRATION'S MANY PLEDGES?

I THINK THAT ANSWERS TO THAT QUESTION WERE GIVEN BY ANOTHER OFFICIAL, ON BACKGROUND.

LET ME JUST SAY IN THE FRONT, THAT AN OUTSTANDING ISSUE, OF COURSE, REMAINS THE QUESTION OF THE MASSIVE CUBAN PRESENCE THERE.

Q: HODDING, TO FOLLOW UP ON THAT; AT WHAT LEVEL DO YOU EXPECT MCHENRY AND JUNIOR TO BE RECEIVED?

A: YOU KNOW, I COULD PROBABLY GIVE YOU A BETTER ANSWER TO A DIFFERENT QUESTION, SINCE I DON'T KNOW AT WHAT LEVEL THEY HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN RECEIVED AND SINCE THEY ARE THERE -- WHY DON'T YOU ASK ME:

"WHO ARE THEY SEEING?" AND SEE WHAT I CAN GET.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 159600

Q: ALSO ON ANGOLA, CAN YOU JUST REFRESH MY MEMORY. THERE HAS BEEN A PREVIOUS TRIP TO ANGOLA BY A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SINCE NOVEMBER, '75, IS THAT RIGHT?

A: YES, THERE WAS. BY OUR CURRENT AMBASSADOR IN NIGERIA, WHO WENT THERE -- I DON'T HAVE THAT -- BUT AT ANY RATE, YES.

Q: WHAT WAS THE CONTEXT OF HIS VISIT?

A: YES, I THINK IT'S IN CONNECTION WITH TALKS WITH THE FRONT LINE STATES PEOPLE.

Q: O.,.

A: JUST TRYING TO FIND IF THAT WAS NAMIBIA OR RHODESIA -- ONE OF YOU EXPERTS ON THE SUBJECT TELL ME.

I CAN'T REMEMBER.

Q: THE EUROPEAN PRESS HAS GIVEN BIG COMMENTS TO ARTICLES ASSERTING THAT MANY SOVIET GENERALS ARE NOW IN ANGOLA, SORT OF RUNNING THE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT THERE.

A: I SAW THOSE. BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT. VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE159600
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BARUSSELL:ADR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780262-0146
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780629/aaaaayvo.tel
Line Count: 323
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7d0c3a83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2237859
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, JUNE 22, 1978 FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY
TAGS: SOPN, XA
To: KINSHASA LUBUMBASHI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7d0c3a83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014